

College of Arts and Sciences Newsletter

Xavier University of Louisiana

Volume I, Issue I
X mission Transmission

Greetings from the Deans

We are happy to have the opportunity to serve as Dean and Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. We are privileged to assist our students, faculty and staff with achieving their educational, research, service and professional development goals. The College is a vibrant and dynamic liberal arts learning community. Whether their specializations are in the natural sciences or the arts, students and faculty can specialize in areas of their interests, but they also have the opportunity to collaborate across disciplines to help solve the most pressing problems of contemporary life. The College offers 19 majors and two interdisciplinary minors, African American Studies and Women's Studies. Our students have opportunities for internships, travel abroad, and to participate in clubs and organizations that are both social and academic. Exchange programs with various universities are available. Our core curriculum ensures that every Xavier graduate has a solid grounding in liberal arts that teaches skills essential to success in work and in life. We will do everything possible to ensure that our faculty and students have an exciting academic environment in which to work and develop.



Dr. Anil Kukreja



Dr. Kim Marie Vaz

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The First Person You Meet in the Dean's Office

Greetings from the Dean's Office! My name is Michelle Balan and I am the Executive Assistant for the Deans of the College of Arts and Sciences. I work with a great team that includes the Dean, Associate Deans, Assistant Deans, and two work study students, Ms. DeAnna Walker (Theology) and Ms. Sabrina Moore (Education) who make the office run smoothly. As Executive Assistant, I see my role as being an ambassador to the College of Arts and Sciences, Deans Office. I want to make guests feel welcome and that their needs and concerns are being heard. My main duty is to manage the front desk and the office. I also work on special projects such as co-presenting a workshop for Administrative Professionals called "Starring in a Supportive Role" with Ms. Cheyenne Walker, editing the Chair Resource Kit, and creating the Emergency Contact Card for our office. In addition, I staff the CAS Staff and Academic Council meetings, track data on 19 departments/divisions, schedule meetings for the Deans, maintain files, and coordinate candidate interviews.



Ms. Michelle Balan

The Many Facets of the Dean's Office



Dr. Kenneth Boutte Sr.

READ TODAY
AND LEAD
TOMORROW

Kenneth G. Boutte, Sr., Ph.D.

As the College of Arts and Sciences Associate Dean for Summer Programs and External Initiatives, my duties include the administration of all current and potential summer programs on campus. I work directly with summer program directors and coordinators to help facilitate program operations while providing the administrative help these programs may need in order to be successful and run smoothly. I am also responsible for the administration of Xavier's summer school courses. With summer courses, I work directly with the Registrar's Office and Departmental Chairs to produce a listing of summer courses that can directly benefit Xavier students. I also work with University Relations to advertise and promote our summer courses. My duties also include the development and implementation of memorandums of understanding, contracts, and agreements between Xavier and other institutions and agencies, leading to academic partnerships and student programs. Examples of such agreements include domestic student exchange program agreements, study abroad agreements, and articulation agreements with other institutions. In addition to the above, I am involved in the duties of the Office of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences such as memberships on committees, interviewing potential faculty, and representing the Office and the University as needed.



Dr. Cheryl Stevens

Dr. Cheryl Stevens Departs Xavier University of Louisiana leaving a vacancy in the Dean's Office

The College of Arts and Sciences bids farewell to Cheryl Stevens who will be the new Dean at Western Kentucky University. Dr. Stevens served as the Associate Dean for Scholarship and Chair of the Chemistry Department. When she vacates this position, the new Associate Dean for this position will provide oversight and guidance for faculty on all issues related to developing and funding scholarship and research. Further, the position will require the development of workshops and discussion groups (some along with the Center for the Advancement of Teaching) pertaining to scholarship issues including types of scholarship, effective presentation of scholarship, and scholarship models. In addition, the position will require vetting proposals from all departments in the College of Arts and Sciences and making suggestions related to writing and budgeting. Also, this Associate Dean interviews prospective research associates, technicians, and staff scientists for CAS. Finally, the role requires that he or she represent the Dean's office where appropriate in meetings and on committees related to research issues.

What I would like Faculty, Staff and Students to Know about my Work in CAS

Gerald A. Villavasso, Jr., MBA



Mr. Gerald Villavasso Jr.

As Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, I'm charged with a variety of responsibilities. Many of my responsibilities involve budgetary matters. These include: procuring additional payment for faculty who carry a greater than normal workload, distributing travel funds to faculty who wish to attend academic conferences, assisting departments with developing their operational budgets, and providing oversight to the CAS travel and operational budgets. I also collect and manage data that I use to generate reports that facilitate the decision making capacity of the Dean's office.

Another one of my responsibilities includes acting as a liaison on behalf of the CAS Dean. As a liaison, I'm often an advocate for the CAS departments, Upward Bound, and the Community Arts Program. I've been involved with key projects. Some of them include: the Art Village renovation, NCF laboratory renovation, and the renovation of the History and Political Science offices.

Exciting things are happening in the Student Academic Success Office (SASO)

Michelle Carter, MA, JD



Ms. Michelle Carter

Highlights of the fall 2011 semester include a new location, additional staff, the expansion of support programs, and national recognition for the Alpha Lambda Delta First Year Honor Society. At the beginning of November, the office relocated to suite 307 in the St. Joseph Academic and Health Resource Center. Office hours are from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

SASO welcomed the addition of Kimberly Moorehead as the Academic Success Coordinator. Ms. Moorehead's primary responsibilities are to coordinate supplemental instruction, monitor the academic progress of readmitted students and teach Freshman Seminar. A native of St. Croix, USVI, Ms. Moorehead earned her bachelor's degree in Mass Communications at Dillard University and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Prior to her appointment at Xavier, Ms. Moorehead served as the Academic Advisor and Activities Coordinator at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Ms. Moorehead and Dr. Adrian Woods spearheaded the revitalization and expansion of Supplemental Instruction (SI) at Xavier. SI consists of regularly-scheduled, informal review sessions in which students compare notes, discuss readings, develop organizational tools, and predict test items. The sessions are facilitated by "SI leaders," students who have previously done well in the course and who attend all class lectures, take notes, and act as model students. For the fall semester, SI was offered for MATH 0990, MATH 1030I, HIST 1030, SOCI 1010, PSYC 1010, PHIL 1010, ACCT 1010, and CPSC 1710.

Although the Alpha Lambda Delta First Year Honor Society is in its second year at Xavier, the organization has made its mark locally and nationally. The Xavier chapter of Alpha Lambda Delta First Year Honor Society initiated 32 new students this fall. ALD also partnered with Freshman Seminar Instructors to introduce the Xavier Undergraduate Mentoring Associates (XUMA) program. Ten ALD members supported Freshman Seminar instructors during class and served as resources for our new freshman. Advisor Dr. Marion Carroll, President Brionee Broussard, President and vice president Kaylin McLeod attended the ALD National Leadership Workshop was held in Charlotte, NC in October.



Student Body Buzz

Biology: Twelve Biology majors were awarded the University's Rousseve Scholarship. This program generally represents the top ten (or more) students in the sophomore, junior and senior classes based on their academic performance the preceding two semesters. Each recipient receives a full tuition scholarship and a book allowance.

Business: The Xavier Chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA) won the SGA's Crystal Ball Award for student organization of the year.

Chemistry: Xavier's student affiliate's chapter was recognized as an Outstanding Chapter by the American Chemical Society (ACS). This past year, they received a grant from the ACS for programming related to the International Year of Chemistry. They also received a Community Interaction Grant from ACS to support the Saturday Science project for local school children.

Sociology Club: The group won the Student Government Association Newcomer of the Year Award (2011)

Education: Three students – Jessica Joseph, Kendall McManus, and Michael Moore – presented a paper, "School Reform in New Orleans: Post Katrina," at the Oxford Round Table in England, along with faculty Dr. Renee' Akbar and Dr. Rosalind Hale, July, 2011.

Theology: Minor, Veronique Dorsey, highlights her recent experiences: "This summer she got the opportunity to travel to Turkey for a week and a half. She played for the Istanbul Jazz Festival with an all female brass band The Original Pinettes Brass Band. She traveled to Istanbul, Izmir and Ankara and played at the U.S. Embassies in these places for their Fourth of July celebrations. She had the privilege to meet Francis J. Ricciardone, the U.S. Ambassador to Turkey. Also, she conducted research with Fr. Linden in the development of the Religion and Theology in North America course, dealing with the theories of Paul Ricoeur and Hermeneutics."

Speech Pathology: Corinne Williams, class of 2013 has been selected as a McNair Scholar. Xavier University's Ronald McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program is designed to increase the numbers of first-generation and underrepresented students completing doctoral programs.

Sociology: Ariana Stone completed student research at a NIDA Summer Research Program at the University of Alabama-Birmingham and presented the research at the Mid-South Sociological Association. Kelsey Riley was a UNCF K-12 Educational Social Entrepreneurship Fellow, a Salzburg Global Seminar Fellow, spent the Spring Semester at New York University, and was selected to participate in the Semester at Sea program.

Computer Science Majors and Minors:

Mr. Jordan Bryant, Ms. Jamitha Carey, Mr. Keith Carroll, and Mr. Michael Williams were awarded \$10,000 NSF S-STEM scholarships.

Mr. Nick Haywood, a 2011 transfer student, is now a Xavier basketball player.

Mr. Terrill Wallace spent the summer working with ITC.

Hey Look!

Who Dat!

Computer Science

Staff: Mr. Augustine Orgah was hired as the CPSC Program Manager in 2011.

Political Science:

Mr. Jason Plume will serve as a Visiting faculty member for the 2011-2012 academic year to teach courses in the political science's judicial studies concentration. Mr. Plume's areas of teaching are Judicial Politics and Public Administration/Public Policy.

Center for the Advancement of Teaching (CAT):

Dr. Vaneshette Henderson, an alumni, is the STEM Education Improvement Specialist in the Center for the Advancement of Teaching.

Language: The Department of Languages successfully placed graduating seniors in international English teaching programs, administered by Ministries of Education in France, Spain, and Japan. Languages has also implemented a computer-based system of language placement, supplemented by a culture component, with bypass credit granted to students based upon their scores.

Communication Studies: In Fall 2012, the Department of Communications welcomes its newest major program in Communication Studies. Communication Studies is a broad academic area that studies and applies communication in many different contexts, including relationships, culture, and performance. Students are trained to apply their communication skills to a chosen profession and/or graduate school. The program includes opportunities for service-learning and collaborative research with faculty. Majors will complete courses in Applied Communication, Communication and Culture, and Performance Studies. All majors earn six hours in service-learning courses, partnering with a wide range of non-profit organizations throughout New Orleans.

New Major in Public Health Sciences: The State of Louisiana, and the United States as a whole, faces enormous and complex health challenges. These threats range from a high prevalence of chronic diseases, environmental health threats, fragmented health care systems, limited disease prevention and promotion programs, and a limited numbers of diverse health care professionals working in urban and rural settings. Xavier University is going to play a unique and important role in producing future leaders to meet current and projected demands for public health professionals through this new program. The Public Health Sciences major will be housed in the College of Arts and Sciences in a newly formed Department of Public Health Sciences. The major will require that students complete 133 semester hours, 42 of which are courses in the major. Coursework will include health promotion program planning and evaluation, epidemiology, biostatistics, behavioral and community health, health care administration, and environmental health.

African American Studies: Dr. Thaddeo K. Babiiha has found it extremely beneficial in his Survey of African Literature course (ENGL3175/AFAM3175) to spend two class periods talking about the eight non-literary Africans who have worked tirelessly to promote "a more just and humane society." These eight non-literary Africans have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and hail from different parts of Africa. Four winners are from South Africa: Nelson Mandela, Fredrik Willem De Klerk, Bishop Desmond Tutu, and Albert John Lutuli; two winners are from Egypt: Mohamed Anwar Al-Sadat and Mohamed ElBaradei; one winner is from Ghana, Kofi Anaan; and the final winner is from Kenya, Wangari Maathai. This Fall 2011 semester, one of his students wrote a paper on the two newest (2011) African Nobel Peace Prize winners, both women and both from Liberia: the country's President, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and the activist Leymah Gbowee. Except for Nelson Mandela, most students know very little about the work by these Nobel Peace Laureates.



Pen to Paper

African American Studies: Dr. Ronald Dorris published “Cafard”(a short story) which appeared in Langston Hughes Colloquy 12 (2011); “Parlance” (short story), The Cultural Journal, 20:2, (Spring 2011), “Carpentry” (a poem); and “African American Women Musicians and Black Internationalism” published in Network 2000: In the Spirit of the Harlem Renaissance 19 (2011). Dorris worked with Xavier student LeReginald R. Jones throughout spring semester 2011 to support his bid for publication. His paper, “Reconstruction: African Americans and the Promise of Failure,” is published in XULAnEXUS 8.2 (2011).

History: Dr. Steven Salm’s edited book: *Globalization in Modern Africa* has been published. Dr. Gary Donaldson’s second edition of *Making of Modern America*, a textbook on US since 1945, will be released from Roman and Littlefield Publishers.

Math: April Harry (class of 2010, currently graduate student at Purdue University), jointly with Dr. Vljako Kocic (Math Department) and Dr. Candace Kent (Virginia Commonwealth University) published the research paper "Global behavior of solutions of a periodically forced Sigmoid Beverton–Holt model" in the *Journal of Biological Dynamics*, April 2011. Dr. R. Patrick Vernon, math faculty, published a paper, “Concerning preservation of chain-ability upon taking a preimage under $z \rightarrow z^2$ ” in the journal, *Topology and its Applications*.

Philosophy: Dr. Thora Bayer’s article “Vico’s Pedagogy,” appears in *New Vico Studies*, 27.

Political Science: Dr. Pamela Waldron-Moore published “Gendered Inequity in Society and the Academy: Policy Initiatives, Economic Realities and Legal Constraints.” *Forum on Public Policy*, Vol. 2010, No. 2.

Psychology: Dr. Elizabeth Yost Hammer was recently named Chief Reader Designate for AP Psychology. She also co-authored the 10th edition of the textbook *Psychology Applied to Modern Life*. She also published a chapter, “Active Learning,” in a forthcoming book for Sage. Dr. Gena Valentine co-authored a forthcoming chapter on teaching Psychology of Gender for an American Psychological Association Handbook.

Sociology: Dr. Silas Lee was the co-researcher for the book, *Black Woman Redefined*, by Sophia Nelson. Dr. Lee co-authored the chapter, “Interracial Alliance Building in a Resilient New Orleans.” The chapter appeared in the book, *Resilience and Opportunity*, published by The Brookings Institute. Dr. Farrah Gafford co-authored a paper entitled, “Reconsidering the New Normal: Vulnerability and Resilience in Post-Katrina New Orleans” in the journal, *Global Horizons: The Journal of Global Policy and Resilience*. Dr. Chris Faircloth published a chapter, “After the Interview” in *The Interview Handbook* for Sage. He also published a chapter, “Disability, Impairment, and the Body” in *The Handbook of the Body* for Routledge.

The Xavierite Yearbook: Following its reorganization and shift into the Department of Communications in May 2010, the Xavierite yearbook joined the Xavier Herald and XTV/Radio in the expanding student media division of Mass Communication. A student team of editors, designers, and photographers produced two yearbooks in a single academic year: the 2009-2010 “Xceeding Xpectations,” was produced and delivered between June-November ‘10; and the 2010-2011 “Laissez les bons temps rouler,” was produced and delivered between August ‘10-April ‘11.

The Xavier Herald

The Xavier Herald, the student newspaper for Xavier University of Louisiana, took home six awards in the Louisiana Press Association’s 2010 Collegiate Student Newspaper Competition.

The Herald placed second in overall general excellence. Other awards divisions and recipients included:

1st place, Staff Generated Advertisement, color: Stacey Windon.

1st place, Most Effective Use of Graphic Design on a Single Page: Cline Bailey.

2nd place, Best General News/Feature photograph: Herald staff photographers.

3rd place, Staff Generated Advertisement, color: Hong Nguyen.

3rd place, Most Effective Use of Graphic Design on a Single Page: Stacey Windon.

Kudos and Congrats

Art: Ron Bechet participated in a group show called “Catalyst: Artists Respond to the Gulf Coast Crisis” in Mobile, AL. On October 14, 2011, the Art department welcomed the Xavier community to its newly renovated facilities. Some of the renovations include: total site drainage, landscaping, exterior building improvements, increased lighting, installation of a safety code blue system, three state of the art audio/visual media equipped rooms, the addition of air conditioning to the ceramics/sculpture studio, and new perimeter fencing. The Art Village is bordered by Pine, Lowerline, and Edinburgh streets.

Business: The Division received a \$32,000 Board of Regents grant to build a student business incubator (X-ubator).

Chemistry: Drs. Cheryl Stevens and Maryam Foroozesh, Professors of Chemistry, were awarded a research grant from the Department of Defense to establish a drug discovery partnership with faculty from Tulane University where the Xavier team (including Thomas Wiese, COP) discover new drugs and then work with Tulane faculty to validate them as anticancer agents: “A Drug Discovery Partnership for Personalized Breast Cancer Therapy,” Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program, Inter-institutional Breast Cancer Research Program, PI- Dr. Cheryl L. Klein Stevens, 09/01/11 – 08/28/15, \$1,000,000 (direct costs).

Computer Science: Dr. Kun (Karen) Zhang is a recipient of the top-10 data mining case studies award at the IEEE 10th international conference on data mining in 2010.

English: Katheryn Laborde won the Faulkner Competition, for her novella. Oliver Hennessey won a NEH Summer fellowship.

History: Dr. Elizabeth Manley travelled to the Dominican Republic to participate in a conference: “Women and Gender in Dominican History” that included scholars, artists, and activists from both the United States and the Dominican Republic.

Language: The Department introduced sign Language into their curriculum!

Psychology: Dr. Cecile Brookover who also serves as the director for Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment in the Xavier Office of Planning, Institutional Research and Assessment won the 2011 AACP Rufus A. Lyman Award honoring the best paper published in the American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education (AJPE). She conducted this research with Margarita Echeverri, Ph.D. and Kathleen B. Kennedy, Pharm.D., Dean College of Pharmacy. Dr. Annette Iskra presented “Posttraumatic growth in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in young African American adults” at the Midwestern Psychological Association in Chicago. Dr. Lisa Schulte was one of 16 psychologists selected to participate in the *Best Practices in Teaching Introductory Psychology* conference in Atlanta.

Sociology: Dr. Farrah Gafford was nominated by Dr. Kevin Gotham of Tulane University (Professor of Sociology) for the UAA-SAGE Marilyn Gittell Activist Scholar Lecture Series (sponsored by the Urban Affairs Association). Dr. Claire Norris presented at the International Conference on Health, Wellness, and Society in Berkeley, CA on the biomedical model of stress and health.

SASO: Dr. Marion Carroll (Academic Enhancement) has been named an Outstanding Advisor of the Year 2010-2011 by the National Council of Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society. Only five advisors are honored nationally each year.

Interdisciplinary Programs

Lilly Fellows Programs in Humanities

Xavier University of Louisiana is a Charter member (1990) of the Lilly Fellows Programs in Humanities and the Arts. Lilly Fellows is a national network of 96 church-related colleges and universities of higher learning. The mission of Lilly Fellows seeks to renew and enhance the connections between Christianity and the academic vocation. The focus of the Lilly Fellows Network is renowned scholars. It supports and promotes the research and scholarship of faculty and students of its member institutions. Along with various other scholarly grants, workshops, and conferences that enhance the Christian vision among member schools Lilly has a two-year residential postdoctoral fellowship and a graduate fellowship program.

Recently, Dr. Norman C. Francis invited the Lilly Fellows to come to Xavier for its October 2014 Annual National Conference. Focusing on the long-standing tradition of Xavier as a Liberal Arts University and an emphasis on the City of New Orleans and its culture, we have selected the theme, **“A Future City; A New Creation: Equal on All Sides.”** A Committee has been preparing for the conference. One of the responsibilities of the planning committee is to work across all academic disciplines at Xavier. The committee sees the 2014 National Conference as a milestone in integrating our University mission and its liberal arts education goals. John E. Ware, Professor of Music and Phillip J. Linden Jr., Associate Professor of Theology serve as Xavier Representatives to the Lilly Fellows Programs.

Xavier RCMI Cancer Research Program will bring two high resolution nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectrometers on campus

Guangdi Wang , Ph.D.

NMR instruments are indispensable tools for scientists who study the structures of molecules as small as water and as large as proteins. As such NMR spectrometry is widely used in chemical and biomedical research, education, and clinical practice. Molecules, however large and complex, consist of common atoms such as hydrogen and carbon. The nuclei of some of the most populous atoms have unique magnetic properties so that under strong magnetic field they behave in ways that reflect the structure of the molecule that these atoms find themselves in. Until 2003, Xavier had only two 80 MHz NMRs mainly used for teaching. The Department of Chemistry purchased a 90 MHz NMR through a Louisiana Board of Regents grant for undergraduate education and research, but many of our faculty and research staff rely on higher field NMRs at UNO and Tulane for structural analysis routinely needed in research involving drug discovery and organic synthesis. This time, funded by the NIH's National Center for Research Resources (NCRR), Xavier has acquired a 300 MHz and a 400 MHz NMR to be installed in the NCF Science Complex in the beginning of Spring semester of 2012. These instruments will be shared by all Xavier researchers and are expected to greatly improve our research productivity. Moreover, undergraduate research students and students taking advanced chemistry courses will have the opportunity to gain hands on experience with the 300 MHz NMR starting March, 2012.



African American Studies Program– Brown Bag

January 26, 2012 @12:15-01:05, UC 205C

Dr. Ronald Dorris, Alumni Class of '58 Professor in Liberal Arts, African American Studies & English
"African American Studies: The Importance of Heritage and Legacy"

February 16, 2012 @12:15-01:05, UC 205C

Professor Steven Battin, Interim Instructor, Department of Theology
"Idolatry of Identity"

March 15, 2012 @12:15-01:05, UC 205C

Dr. Violet Harrington Bryan, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Professor in Humanities
"Woodside, St. Mary, Jamaica: The Lived and Imagined Homeland in Fiction and Poetry of Sisters, Erna Brodber and Velma Pollard"

April 19, 2012 @12:15-01:05, UC 205C

Dr. Thaddeo Babiiha, Associate Professor of English
"AFAM 2000 Without Borders"

Books into Film series for 2012 includes the following:

January 12th –Double Indemnity, introduced by Dr. Elliott Hammer

February 9th—The Blue Angel, introduced by Ms. Katheryn Laborde

March 2nd—The Informer, introduced by Dr. Nicole Greene

All three films will be shown in the Second Floor Lounge of the UC.

Imagining America -- <http://imaginingamerica.org/>

Activities at XULA: XU Contacts: Professor Ron Bechet/Art and Dr. Ross Louis/Communications

Friday, January 13, 2012

- ◇ Community Site Visit/Site tour of arts in the community project
- ◇ Community Scholar-Valeria Schexnayder/ Valeria tells her story of evacuation, return, recovery and transformation in the Lower 9th Ward (<http://www4.uwm.edu/uwminneworleans/partners/schexnayder.cfm>)

Saturday, January 14, 2012

Reception

Monday, January 16, 2012

Service learning opportunity: Day of service at Vietnamese Initiatives in Economic Training

Xavier University's Across Curriculum Thinking (ACT) Program

ACT began in 1986 under the auspices of a Ford Foundation grant and seeks to promote critical thinking about vital issues from an interdisciplinary perspective. Save the dates: Noon/ Feb 08, 2011, UC Ballroom C; 1 pm/ Mar 07, 2011 UC Ballroom; Noon/ Mar 21, 2011 UC Ballroom C; 1 pm/ Apr 11, 2011 UC Ballroom; 7 pm/ Mar 13, 2011 NCF Auditorium; 7 pm/ Apr 10, 2011 NCF Auditorium; 7 pm/ Apr 26, 2011 NCF Auditorium.